Manchester Cooperative Wholesale Society, 21*l*., and many medical societies. Lord Strathcona has sent a donation of 100*l*., and Prof. Ehrlich, of Frankfurt, has sent one of 500 marks.

Committees for the purpose of collecting subscriptions have been formed by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham, and other universities are also making efforts locally to promote the success of the memorial. Arrangements have also been made for the formation of committees in the British Dominions beyond the seas and in foreign countries.

The proposed memorial will be of a threefold character, and consists of (1) a simple marble medallion bearing a sculptured portrait of Lord Lister, to be placed in Westminster Abbey among the monuments of the nation's illustrious dead; (2) a larger and more conspicuous monument, to be erected in some public place in London, and (3) the founding of an International Memorial Fund, from which either grants in aid of researches bearing on surgery or rewards in recognition of important contributions to surgical science will be made, irrespective of nationality. A considerable sum of money is required to carry out these proposals. Donations should be sent to the treasurers of the fund at the Royal Society, Burlington House, London, W.

NOTES.

Sir Oliver Lodge has been elected president of the British Association, in succession to the late Sir William White, for the meeting to be held in Birmingham next September.

The Lord Mayor has given permission for the annual meeting of the British Science Guild to be held at the Mansion House on Wednesday, May 21, at 4 p.m., when he will preside, and Sir William Mather, P.C. (Lord Haldane's successor to the presidentship), will be present. The annual dinner of the guild will be held on Monday, May 26, at the Trocadero Restaurant. The guild has recently been considering the important question of pure milk and the Government Milk Bill, and has drawn up a report in connection with it. A report has also been prepared on national education, and it will be presented to the Government in connection with the contemplated organisation of our educational system.

Lord Burghclere, chairman of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Sir Thomas R. Fraser, F.R.S., professor of materia medica and clinical medicine, University of Edinburgh, and Mr. E. H. Tennyson-D'Eyncourt, Director of Naval Construction, Admiralty, have been elected members of the Athenæum Club, under the provisions of the rule of the club which empowers the annual election by the committee of a certain number of persons of "distinguished eminence in science, literature, the arts, or for public services."

The death is announced, on April 7, at sixty-nine years of age, of Mr. F. G. Smart, fellow of the Linnean and the Royal Geographical Societies.

Mr. G. C. Curtis is starting for Hawaii in order to carry out a commission to construct for the geological museum at Harvard a relief model of the volcano Kilauea.

Prof. Ira N. Hollis, who has been head of the department of engineering at Harvard since 1893, has resigned his chair in order to accept the presidency of the Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass.

The death is announced, in his seventy-sixth year, of Prof. H. Alexan Bezjian, teacher of physical science in the Central Turkey College, Aintab, Turkey-in-Asia, and described by *The Times* as "one of the most distinguished scientific men that Turkey has yet produced."

The medical faculty of the University of Birmingham has suffered a severe loss by the sudden death of Prof. Jordan Lloyd, who had been a member of the University staff since the foundation of the University, having previously occupied the chair of surgery at Mason College since 1891.

The summer meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers will be held in Cambridge, and will begin on Monday, July 28. On the following day the Vice-Chancellor of the University, the Mayor of Cambridge, and the members of the local committee will receive and welcome the president, Sir H. Frederick Donaldson, K.C.B., and the council and members of the institution, in the Senate House of the University. Papers will be read and discussed on that and succeeding days, and there will be visits to engineering works, laboratories, and places of interest in Cambridge, as well as various social functions.

On Tuesday next, April 15, at three o'clock, Prof. W. Bateson will deliver the first of two lectures at the Royal Institution on the heredity of sex and some cognate problems, in continuation of those delivered before Easter, and on Thursday, April 17, Prof. J. Garstang will begin a course of three lectures on the progress of Hittite studies. The Friday evening discourse on April 18 will be delivered by Dr. T. M. Lowry on applications of polarised light, on April 25 by Prof. J. Garstang on Meroë: four years' excavations of the ancient Ethiopian capital, and on May 2 by Mr. H. G. Plimmer on blood parasites.

A joint meeting of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Société Internationale des Electriciens will be held in Paris on May 21–24. The inaugural meeting on Wednesday, May 21, will be held at the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers. The programme includes papers and discussions on the electrification of railways; long-distance transmission of electrical energy; lighting by means of vapour-tube lamps; and wireless telegraphy. There will be a reception and banquet at the Palais d'Orsay by invitation of the Société Internationale des Electriciens; a kinematograph demonstration by M. Gaumont; visit to the aërodynamical laboratory of M. Eiffel at Aufeuil; reception by M. Eiffel at the highest platform of the Eiffel Tower, and inspection of the wireless installation, as well as many other social functions.

The annual meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute will be held on Thursday and Friday, May 1–2. At the opening session the Bessemer gold medal for 1913 will be presented to Mr. A. Greiner, and on May 2 the Andrew Carnegie gold medal (for 1912) will be presented to Dr. J. Newton Friend, and the awards of research scholarships for the current year will be announced. Among the papers that are expected to be submitted are the following:—"Critical Ranges of Pure Iron, with Special Reference to the Point A_2," Dr. H. C. H. Carpenter; "Influence of the Metalloids on the Properties of Cast Iron," H. I. Coe; "Influence of Silicon on the Corrosion of Cast Iron," Dr. J. Newton Friend and C. W. Marshall; "Studies in the Cold Flow of Steel," P. Longmuir; and "Production of Sound Steel by Lateral Compression of the Ingot whilst its Centre is Liquid," B. Talbot.

We have received the prospectus of an International Ornithological, Entomological, and Botanical Exhibition, to illustrate the economic aspects of ornithology, which is to be held from May 3 to June 1 in the Palais des Beaux-Arts at Liége, under the auspices of three Belgian ornithological societies. The exhibition will be essentially "documentaire," that is to say, based on treatises devoted to the economic aspects of ornithology, and its connections with entomology, but it will also include collections of birds, insects, and such plants as furnish, in the shape of their seeds, a large proportion of the food of birds. To render the show more attractive to the general public, collections of butterflies will be admitted. The object of the exhibition is stated to be entirely for the advancement of science, and not for profit. Exhibits are invited, and intending exhibitors requested to send their communications to L. Cuisinier, 155 Rue de Bruxelles, Ans.

The death is announced, on April 6, at sixty-three years of age, of Prof. Adolf C. H. Slaby, inventor with Count Arco of the German system of wireless telegraphy. He had a stroke of paralysis about two years ago, and was obliged to retire from the Charlottenburg Hochschule, of which he was at various periods director. A fortnight ago he had a second stroke, and never recovered consciousness. We are indebted to *The Times* for the following particulars of his career:—Prof. Slaby was from 1884 to 1902 director of the electrical laboratory at the Technische Hochscule, and there began the experiments which led to the perfection of the "Telefunken" system. From the Emperor William, who made his acquaintance when the White Hall of the Royal castle in Berlin was fitted with electric light and gave him frequent encouragement and support, he obtained permission to use the Royal gardens on the banks of the Havel for his experiments. Here he worked the whole of the summer of 1897, sometimes ten hours a day, attempting to establish wireless communication between the Pfauen island in Wannsee and the Pfingstberg. In October of that year he established wireless connection between two captive balloons at a distance of 21 kilometres. The range of the German wireless system, of which Siemens Telefunken Company has acquired the monopoly rights for Great Britain, is now said to be 6000 kilometres.

It is gratifying to learn that the Gypsy Lore Society is now in a flourishing condition, though the number of members is still smaller than it should be. In the second part of vol. vi. of the society's Proceedings Mr. H. L. Williams, of the Indian Police, continues his interesting notes on the criminal and wandering tribes of India. He quotes a current rumour that some of these people in the Punjab and United Provinces of Agra and Oudh are anthropophagous. Two supposed informers are said to have been killed and eaten in a Sânsi camp in the Bhartpur State. The story, as it is recorded, is almost incredible, and seems to be only an instance of the facility with which the settled people in the northern plains are accustomed to accept all kinds of marvellous tales regarding these uncanny and mysterious vagrants.

The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, of which the final part of vol. xlii. has recently been issued, forms a valuable record of the excellent work in physical anthropology, ethnography, prehistoric archæology, and linguistics which the institute, under its present management, is prosecuting. In its *format* and in the abundant illustrations with which it is furnished, it is equal, or perhaps superior, to the publications of any European society which covers the same field of research. It is scarcely creditable to the Empire that work of this kind does not receive more adequate recognition. In any other country possessing opportunities for the study of anthropology a society like this would be supported by a State grant, and would bear on its rolls a much larger number of subscribers. Funds are urgently required for extending its work. In particular, *Man*, the monthly journal of the institute, does not provide adequate space for a record of current literature, and for the publication of short notes or articles of anthropological interest. The institute is most uncomfortably housed, and its library needs extension and better arrangement before it can meet the wants of students. It may be hoped that when the condition of this important branch of research is brought to public notice the institute may meet with adequate support from the State, from students in this country, and from the large body of English officers working among savage races throughout the Empire.

We have before us the first part of a new text-book of physiological histology, by Prof. Sigmund, of Teschen, which is being translated into English by Mr. Lovatt Evans, of University College, London. Carl Zeiss, Ltd., is the London firm responsible for the issue. It is beautifully illustrated, and the descriptive text is admirably lucid and up-to-date. The special feature of the work, however, is that it is accompanied by actual microscopical specimens. Thus part i., which deals with the skin, has with it ten specimens to illustrate the structure of the cutaneous organs. We have nothing but praise for the specimens, and these will be highly prized by those who have not the time or opportunity of making microscopic slides for themselves, but nevertheless desire to examine such specimens. We would, however, caution students that pictures, however beautiful, and bought slides, however perfect they may be, can never really teach them histology. The specimens they prepare themselves may not exhibit the same technique, the rough drawings they themselves execute may not be highly artistic, but the educational value of such far transcends that of purchased specimens or highly coloured diagrams.

We have received from Messrs. Charles Griffin the first number of the sixth volume of *The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Physiology,* which was brought out under the editorship of Prof. Schäfer five years ago. When this new periodical first appeared doubt was expressed in some quarters whether there was room for a new physiological journal. But nothing succeeds like success, and we heartily congratulate its distinguished editor on having justified his expectations in relation to the life and vigour of the journal. The present number contains a noteworthy paper by Prof. Herring on the comparative anatomy and physiology of the pituitary body, a subject which he has made his own; Prof. Schäfer and Mr. Gavin contribute articles on one of the functions of this remarkable gland, namely its influence on the secretion of milk. Dr. Graham Brown continues his studies on the physiology of reflex action. Drs. Cramer and Pringle deal with the much-vexed question of blood-coagulation, pointing out the importance of the platelets in the process, and, finally, Mr. Miller, of Montreal, treats of the nerve centres concerned in the secretion of saliva, and Dr. Grube, of Kansas, on the blocking of nerve impulses. The journal thus deals with many important aspects of physiological progress, and should be on the bookshelves of all working physiologists and others interested in the subject.

Parts i. and ii. of the ninth volume of *Biometrika* are given up mainly to the consideration of statistical methods. Thus 150 pages are occupied by an article of Prof. Karl Pearson's and Dr. David Heron's on theories of association, which would be more interesting and valuable if it were not merely one stage in a controversy between the authors and Mr. Yule. Four papers treat of methods for obtaining the "probable error" of statistical constants of various kinds, and one on the influence of "broad categories" on correlation. Among those contributions which deal rather with practical results than with statistical theory is a study by Mr. A. B. Emmons, of Harvard, on variations in the pelvis of American Indian squaws. His observations are in conformity with the statement of Engelman that labour is as a rule short and easy among North American Indians who marry within their tribe. He finds that in almost three-quarters of the specimens examined the dimensions of the pelvis would have allowed an easy delivery where the head of the fœtus was about the normal size. Another paper dealing with a subject of considerable importance is that of Mr. E. C. Snow on the intensity of natural selection in man. This is a supplement to his original memoir, which has already been noticed in Nature.

The January issue of *Science Progress* (No. 27, 1913) contains an article by Dr. R. R. Armstrong on the mechanism of infection in tuberculosis. Dr. Armstrong expresses the opinion that infection of children from tuberculous milk is of minor importance, and that in their case, as with adults, infection is mainly with the human type of tubercle bacillus by way of the respiratory tract.

A pamphlet on the house-fly as a danger to health: its life-history and how to deal with it, by Mr. Ernest Austen, has been issued by the trustees of the British Museum at the price of 1*d.* It gives in simple language the life-history of the house-fly and describes its breeding habits and its dangers to health. The pamphlet is illustrated with two full-page half-tone plates of the house-fly and lesser house-fly and of the house-fly maggots.

We have received a small volume entitled "Anleitung zur Kultur der Mikroorganismen," by Dr. Ernst Küster (B. G. Teubner, second edition, 1913). It contains a very complete account of the methods and media employed for the cultivation of the protozoa, bacteria, myxomycetes, algæ, and fungi. The matter has been brought well up to date, including, for instance, the work of Bass on the cultivation of the malaria parasite. The price is 8 marks.

To the March number of *The Zoologist* Prof. Stanley Gardiner contributes a highly appreciative and sympathetic memoir of the late Prof. Adam Sedgwick, with special reference to his early work and associates at Cambridge, and the gradual building up of the modern school of morphology at that University.

In the *Boletin de la Sociedad Physis,* vol. i., No. 3, Mr. A. Gallardo gives an account of a plague of ants which made their appearance in certain parts of the province of Buenos Aires during 1904–5. The species is the so-called Argentine or New Orleans ant, *Irodomyrmex humilis,* an exceedingly prolific insect, of which colonies have made their appearance during the present century in New Orleans, Madeira, Portugal, and elsewhere. In the opinion of the author this aggressively colonising ant is probably an immigrant into Buenos Aires, and its real home some part of tropical America.

To the Smithsonian Institution we are indebted for a notice of a complete skeleton of an armoured dinosaur, *Stegosaurus stenops,* which, although discovered near Canyon City, Colorado, so long ago as 1885, has only just been placed on public exhibition in the U.S. National Museum. Alongside is placed a restoration of the reptile as it probably appeared in life. When discovered, the skeleton was lying on its back, in such a manner as to suggest that the reptile had met its death by violence, and the remains have been mounted in the same position, the conformation of the back being displayed by means of mirrors arranged beneath.

In reference to the recommendation in the "First, Second, and Third Reports from the Committee of Public Accounts" that a periodical stocktaking should be instituted in national museums and galleries, and also that the results of such surveys should be subject to review by the Controller and Auditor-General, it is pointed out in the March number of *The Museums Journal* that in the British Museum alone a small army of officials would be required for a task of this nature. It is added that if the registers in any museum or gallery are not properly kept up to date, the fault is due to the inadequacy of the staff.

THE report of the Department of Agriculture of the Union of South Africa has been issued in the form of a Blue-book. Although work has been disorganised by changes in administration, the report contains many interesting accounts of the investigations carried out by the various branches of the service. Amongst these may be mentioned the inquiry as to the cause of lamziekte (lame-sickness) undertaken by Dr. Theiler and Mr. Burtt-Davy, a discussion of which appears in the report of the agrostologist and botanist. Observations already made would appear to indicate that the complaint is not transmissible, and is more or less analogous with the "pica" disease of North Germany and the cornstalk disease of the United States. The view is expressed that the disease is due to the action of a plant poison, which is generated in grasses or other plants normally innocuous. Its development is associated with certain climatic and telluric conditions in which summer drought is an important factor. In this way the conditions responsible for the wilting of grass also favour the formation of the toxin, and this tends to explain the view commonly held that the disease is caused by the consumption of such wilted grass.

To the February issue of the Journal of the Meteorological Society of Japan Mr. J. Otsuki contributes a detailed report, accompanied by a map, of an eruption of Asama-yama on December 14, 1912. The author notes that this volcano has been particularly active in recent years. A violent outburst occurred 130 years ago, but from that time to 1909 the eruptions, though frequent, were of a minor nature. In May of the latter year an alarming eruption occurred, since when the volcano's activity has increased, no fewer than five serious outbursts being recorded in the past four years. The latest manifestation caused considerable consternation over a wide area. The reverberations of the explosion, which are likened to the booming of artillery, had earthquake-like effects on the near-lying villages, and were heard over an area of nearly 16,000 square miles, while a rain of white ash fell during the day of the eruption and the following day, covering ground extending for 2500 square miles. The column of dust and vapour rising above the volcano during the eruption was estimated to have been nearly two miles high.

SOME interesting details, accompanied by synoptic charts, relating to the disastrous hurricanes of November last in Jamaica are given in the United States meteorological chart of the North Atlantic Ocean for March, and in a report (No. 411) by Mr. Maxwell Hall, Government meteorologist for the island. Mr. Hall refers to three distinct disturbances: A, an ordinary depression until it curved round the west end of the island; B, a fully developed cyclonic hurricane which struck the south-west coast, travelling in a north-easterly direction; C, a small inland depression which broke the telegraph wires, November 16 and 17. On the morning of November 14 one of several useful warnings issued by the Washington Weather Bureau located a storm 400 miles south-west of Kingston; this storm Mr. Hall refers to by the letter B. At noon on November 17 the storm A was off Negril lighthouse, moving very slowly, and at midnight was overtaken by B. The subsequent action between these storms was very remarkable; Mr. Hall says:—"Every barometric pressure, as well as every direction of the wind, was affected by two or three cyclones, and with the data at hand it is not possible to separate the effects." After A passed out to sea north-east of Montego Bay, it returned rapidly southward, and placed itself between Kempshot on one side and cyclone B on the other. The registered wind velocity reached 120 miles an hour at Negril on the morning of November 18, and at Kempshot (Montego Bay) the same evening a similar rate was estimated. Several towns were entirely destroyed; at Savanna-la-Mar the sea wave was the highest within a century, and the sea was driven half a mile up the principal street.

ALMOST the whole of the March number of *Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity* is devoted to a description of the theory, construction, and working of the earth inductor made by the Carnegie Institution of Washington for the determination of dip on board the magnetic exploring ship *Carnegie*. The coil of the inductor rotates about a diameter which can be set at any inclination and in any azimuth. Rotation of the coil will in general produce an alternating current, which only becomes zero if the axis of rotation coincides with the direction of the magnetic field at the place of observation. A telephone in series with the coil would determine the position of the axis for zero current, if the axis could be kept fixed in the proper direction. Since at sea this is not possible, the coil is provided with a two-part commutator, which rectifies the current and sends it through a moving-coil galvanometer. By reading the deflections of the galvanometer when the axis has several positions near the correct one, and the coil is rotated at a constant speed, the dip is determined on the *Carnegie* with an accuracy of about three minutes of arc.

THE volume of "Records of the Survey of India, 1910–11," contains discussions on the pendulum and latitude observations made in Sind and Baluchistan, where the arrangement of the mountain masses seems to show marked differences from that found in the vicinity of the main Himalayan region. In the first place, the average deflection of the plumb line is found to be remarkably small, and in general the attraction of the visible mountain masses is much less than could have been anticipated. The geological structure of the whole area is, however, very complicated, and it would appear that far more information, both as to the surface forms and as to the gravity variations, is required before any very definite conclusions can be drawn. Possibly, as suggested by Colonel Burrard, the Eötvös torsion balance might give information which would usefully supplement that derived from other sources. It is to be hoped that the Indian Survey will give a trial to this most interesting instrument. A curious fact elicited is that there seems to be a slow alteration in the vibration periods of a number of pendulums at the same place, Dehra Dun. Thus all four pendulums used showed the apparent force of gravity as highest in January, 1904, and lowest in November, 1909, with a distinct rise since. No cause can be suggested to account for this variation. An investigation as to how far the Indian observations conform to the requirements of "isostacy" promises interesting results, but is as yet only in a preliminary stage.

THE *Alsatian,* which is the first of two quadruple-screw turbine steamers being constructed for the Allan Line, was launched from the yard of Messrs. Wm. Beardmore and Co. on March 22. An illustrated account of this vessel, which is 600 ft. long and of gross tonnage about 18,000, appears in *Engineering* for April 4. A notable feature is the adoption of the cruiser stern, an arrangement which permits of a greater displacement on a given length over-all, with corresponding increase in dead-weight, or, if the displacement be not increased, the lines may be fined down, so that the ship is more easily driven, with corresponding reduction in engine power. Further, the fuller water lines aft which are permissible with this type of stern ensure greater stability, especially at the deeper draughts. It is probable also that this form of stern tends to reduce the vibration due to the propellers. Hitherto the Board of Trade has only required a vessel to be capable of remaining afloat with any two adjacent compartments open to the sea. In the *Alsatian,* the aim of the designers has been to ensure her remaining afloat with four adjacent compartments open to the sea.

WE have received from Messrs. George Philip and Sons, Ltd., of Fleet Street, London, a specimen of a very handy, light terrestrial globe, 6 in. in diameter, showing by bold blue lines the new routes which will be opened when the Panama Canal is completed. "The Panama Canal Route Globe," as it is named, costs only 2*s.* 6*d.* net, and explains easily what a convenience to ocean travel the new canal will be.

MESSRS. CHARLES GRIFFIN AND CO., LTD., announce the following new books and new editions. In *Chemistry* :—The Petroleum Technologist's Pocket Book, by Sir Boverton Redwood, Bart., and A. Eastlake; Roberts-Austen: Addresses and Scientific Papers, together with a Record of the Work of Sir William Chandler Roberts-Austen, K.C.B., F.R.S., compiled and edited by S. W. Smith, illustrated; A Manual on the Examination of Fuel, by J. H. Coste and E. R. Andrews, illustrated; Outlines of Stationery Testing, by H. A. Bromley, illustrated; A Treatise on Petroleum, by Sir Boverton Redwood, Bart., new edition in three volumes, illustrated; A Handbook of Petroleum, by Capt. J. H. Thomson and Sir Boverton Redwood, Bart., new edition, revised throughout and added to by Major A. Cooper-Key and Sir Boverton Redwood, Bart., illustrated; The Synthetic Dyestuffs, and the Intermediate Products from which they are derived, by Dr. J. C. Cain and Dr. J. F. Thorpe, F.R.S., new edition. In *Engineering* :—Coast Erosion and Protection, by E. R. Matthews; The Dock and Harbour Engineer's Reference Book, by B. Cunningham; Electricity in Mining, by Siemens Brothers Dynamo Works, Ltd., illustrated; Griffin's New Guide to the Board of Trade Examination for Marine Engineers, by R. A. McMillan, part ii., Elementaries, Verbals and Drawing; A Manual of Petrol Motors and Motor-cars, comprising the Designing, Construction, and Working of Petrol Motors, by F. Strickland, new edition. In *Geology* :—A Textbook of Geology, by Prof. J. Park, illustrated. In *Mathematics and Physics* :—Electricity and Magnetism, by Prof. J. H. Poynting, F.R.S., and Sir J. J. Thomson, F.R.S., 2 vols., vol i., illustrated. In *Metallurgy* :—Autogenous Welding: a Practical Handbook on the Installation, Working, and Manipulation of Oxy-Acetylene Welding Plant, for the Unition of Metals without Flux or Compression, from the French of R. Granton and P. Rosemberg, translated by D. Richardson, illustrated; Practical Assaying, by Prof. James Park, revised and enlarged from the third New Zealand edition; Rand Metallurgical Practice, vol. i., new edition. In *Technology* :—Engraving for Calico Printing, by W. Blackwood, illustrated; Painters' Colours, Oils, and Varnishes, Hurst's Practical Manual, new edition, revised throughout and re-written by N. Heaton, with a chapter on Varnishes by Dr. M. B. Blackley, illustrated; Painting and Decorating, by W. J. Pearce, new edition, illustrated.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

NOVA GEMINORUM NO. 2.—In No. 4638 of the *Astronomische Nachrichten* three series of magnitude determinations of Nova Geminorum No. 2 are published. The first, from the University Observatory, Tokyo, commences with the nova's magnitude 5·1, on March 23, and observations were continued until August 17, when its magnitude was 7·89. Both the other sets of observations come from the Observatory of Cracow. The longer list gives the magnitude 3·96 for the nova on March 14; by the time the last determination was made, May 19, its light had dimmed to magnitude 7·60.

LIGHT-CHANGES OF α ORIONIS.—A list of 293 magnitude determinations of α Orionis, made between November, 1901, and August, 1912, by Mr. C. P. Olivier, of the Leander McCormick Observatory, is given in No. 4637 of the *Astronomische Nachrichten.* The table gives, in four columns, the date, Greenwich mean time, determined magnitude, and number of comparison stars used. The values found range from 0·21 (twice) to 1·06 (four times). Under the usual treatment the observations failed to reveal any regularity in the light changes.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF COMET BROOKS (1911*c*).—Dr. Luigi Taffara (*Mem. della Soc. d. Spett. Ital.,* disp. 1^a, vol. ii., ser. 2^a, p. 11) publishes an account of his photographic work on this comet during September, 1911. His observations were made at the Collurania Observatory in Teramo, at the invitation of Dr. Cerulli. The instrument employed was a Cooke triplet of 16·5 cm. aperture and 1·09 metres focal length. This camera was mounted on the equatorial constructed by Salmoiraghi (aperture 13·5 cm. and focal length 1·75 metres), which was used as a finder. In addition to giving a table of positions of the comet